

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 13, 17, 40, 41, 47 and 54 have been amended. Claims 9, 10, 18, 19 and 39 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 2-8, 11-17, 20, 22-37 and 40-54 are presented for examination.

Claims 17 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants submit that claims 17 and 54 have been amended to appear in proper condition for allowance.

Claims 2-8, 11, 12, 20 and 22-37 are allowed. In addition, applicants acknowledge that claims 39-41 and 48-50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of the base claims and intervening claims.

Claims 9, 10, 13, 16-19, 47, 42, 46, 53 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,847). Further, claims 14, 15, 43-45, 51 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,847). Applicants submit that the above rejections have been obviated by the cancellation of claims 9, 10, 18 and 19 and the amendment of independent claims 13 and 47 to include the allowable subject matter indicated in the Office Action.

Therefore, applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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